APS committee

I would also like to ask you to grand the governor's budget request for \$300,000 for caregivers.

The Belmont Senior Citizens Center was privileged enough to receive one of the four Alzheimer's Demonstration Grants this year. And in the 9 months that we have received this grant money we have been able to provide over 1,000 hours of respite care.

I know you have been warned that the Baby Boomers are coming and Montana is not prepared. Well the Baby Boomers are coming and who will take care of them if we do not have qualified programs in place?

We are working to educate the counties we serve in the meaning of respite. You see not many people know what respite is- it is the caregivers taking care of themselves so they will be able to take care of their loved ones with a chronic illness.

Tell about Pete.

On December 21, 2006 the Lifespan Respite Care Act was signed into law.

There would be \$289 million over five years for state grants to develop Lifespan Respite Programs. Montana must to ready apply for and have a plan to receive this money for respite care.

In the meantime there must be money to implement plans that work for providing respite today.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.

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